

IN THE CLAIMS:

9. (currently amended) A process for producing uracil-auxotrophic microorganisms, which comprises modifying an orotidine-5'-phosphate decarboxylase gene having the sequence SEQ ID NO: 1 or its homologs as claimed in claim 1 in such a way that the protein encoded by the gene is inactive, and introducing this modified gene into the microorganisms and integrating said gene by homologous recombination into the genome of the microorganisms, and subsequently selecting these microorganisms for resistance to 5-fluoroorotic acid thereby producing uracil-auxotrophic microorganisms.

10. (currently amended) A process for inserting DNA into microorganisms, which comprises inserting a vector which comprises an intact orotidine-5'-phosphate decarboxylase gene having the sequence SEQ ID NO: 1 or its homologs isolated from microorganisms which have at least 80 90% homology with the sequences SEQ ID NO: 1 as claimed in claim 1 together with at least one other nucleic acid sequence, into a microorganism which is deficient in orotidine-5'-phosphate decarboxylase nucleic acid sequence having the sequence SEQ ID NO: 1 and cultivating this microorganism on or in a culture medium without uracil.